Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition Vocabulary

abrasion	The grinding away of rock by other rock particles carried in water, ice, or wind.
acid rain	A form of chemical weathering caused by burning fossil fuels.
alluvial fans	A wide sloping deposit of sediment formed where a stream leaves a mountain range.
chemical weathering	The process that breaks down rock through chemical changes. (Causes: water, carbon dioxide, oxygen, living organisms, and acid rain)
deflation	Wind erosion that removes surface materials.
deltas	A landform made of sediment that is deposited where a river flows into an ocean or lake.
deposition	The process in which sediment is laid down in new locations. Can form features such as beaches and sand dunes.
erosion	The process by which water, ice, wind, or gravity moves weathered rock and soil.
freezing and thawing	Mechanical weathering process that splits rock when water seeps into cracks, then freezes and expands.
glacier	A large mass of moving ice and snow on land that forms in areas with more snow falling than melting. Carve out V-shaped valley to form U-shaped valley.
gravity	A force that moves rocks and other materials downhill. Can cause "mass movement" such as slump, creep, landslide, and mudflow
mechanical weathering	The type of weathering in which rock is physically broken into smaller pieces. (Causes: plant growth, animal actions, freezing and thawing, release of pressure, and abrasion)
moraine	A ridge formed by the till deposited at the edge of a glacier.
oxidation	A chemical change in which a substance combines with oxygen (example: iron forms rust when it oxidizes)
plucking action	The process by which a glacier picks up rocks as it flows over land.
runoff	Water that flows over the ground surface rather than soaking into the ground.
till	The sediments deposited by a glacier.
water	The most important form of chemical weathering. Can dissolve minerals in rocks faster when they are broken down with more surface area.
weathering	The chemical and physical processes that break down rocks on the Earth's surface.